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Hate Crime in Canada

2006

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Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

Preface

This profile focuses primarily on 2006 data obtained from the Hate Crime Supplemental Survey, a special survey of hate crimes reported by police services across Canada. Funding for the Hate Crime Supplemental Survey was provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage in support of "Canada's Action Plan Against Racism" (CAPAR), a five-year project combining federal government programs and major initiatives to combat racism and promote inclusion in Canada.

In order to gain a more complete picture of the extent and nature of police-reported hate crime in Canada, data from the Hate Crime Supplemental Survey were combined with data obtained from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR 2.2) Survey. Together, these two surveys reflect hate crime data from police services covering 87% of the population of Canada.

Self-reported victimization data from the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) are presented as a complementary source of information on hate crime. These data are collected from Canadians who reported having been victims of a crime that they perceived to have been motivated by hate.

Other examples of the topics explored through this series of profiles include youth crime and victimization, visible minorities and victimization, and Aboriginal peoples in Canada. This is a unique periodical, of great interest to those who plan, establish, administer and evaluate justice programs and projects, or anyone who has an interest in Canada's justice system.

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Highlights

- In 2006, Canadian police services, covering 87% of the population, reported 892 hate-motivated crimes. These accounted for less than 1% of all incidents reported to police and represented a rate of 3.1 incidents per 100,000 population.

- According to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS), which collects self-reported data on individuals' perceptions of crime, 3% of all incidents were believed by victims to have been motivated by hate.

- Police-reported data show that the vast majority of hate crimes were motivated by either race/ethnicity (61%), religion (27%) or sexual orientation (10%). GSS data also indicate that hate crimes motivated by race/ethnicity were the most common.

- Half of all racially-motivated hate crimes reported by police in 2006 targeted Blacks and nearly two-thirds of religiously-motivated hate crimes were directed at the Jewish faith.

- Half of all hate crimes reported by police were property-related offences, usually mischief, and one-third were violent offences. Conversely, hate crimes reported by victims to the GSS were more likely to be violent than property-related.

- Among census metropolitan areas, the highest rates of police-reported hate crime were in Calgary (9.1), Kingston (8.5), Ottawa (6.6), London (5.9) and Toronto (5.5). There were no hate crimes reported in Saguenay, Sherbrooke, St.Catharines-Niagara and Saskatoon.

- Hate crimes are most likely to involve young people, both as victims and accused persons. The rates of victims of police-reported violent hate crimes were highest among those aged 12 to 17 and 18 to 24 years. The rate of accused persons was highest among youth 12 to 17 years.

- Most violent hate crimes are committed by strangers rather than persons known to victims. In 2006, 77% of victims of police-reported violent hate crime did not know their perpetrator compared to 33% of victims of other violent crimes.

- Data from the GSS indicate that the psychological impacts of crime tend to be more severe when the incident is motivated by hate. In 2004, victims of hate crime more often reported feeling worried than did victims of other crime when walking alone at night and while waiting or using public transportation.

Introduction

Canada is a multi-cultural society comprised of many social, cultural, religious and linguistic groups. According to 2006 Census data, over 5 million Canadians or 16% of the population, reported being members of a visible minority group, up by 27% since 2001 (Statistics Canada, 2008). The number of same-sex couples has also increased, up by 33% between 2001 and 2006 (Statistics Canada, 2007). Canada's religious composition is also changing, with some of the largest increases between 1991 and 2001 in Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist religious denominations (Statistics Canada, 2003). With such diversity, the potential arises for acts of discrimination or conflict between individuals and groups, some of which are recognized as hate crimes.[1]

Hate crimes refer to criminal offences that are motivated by hate towards an identifiable group. The incident may target race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or any other similar factor, such as profession or political beliefs. These types of offences are unique in that they not only affect those who may be specifically targeted by the perpetrator, but they often indirectly impact entire communities.

Currently, there are more than 30 countries in North America and Europe that recognize the distinctiveness of hate crimes and have consequently adopted hate crime legislation (McClintock and LeGendre, 2007b). In Canada, the crimes of advocating genocide, public incitement of hatred and mischief in relation to religious property have been incorporated into the *Criminal Code* as distinct hate crime offences. In addition, sentencing provisions allow for increased penalties when hate is determined to be an aggravating circumstance in any criminal offence.

There are two different, although complementary, data sources that can be used to measure hate crime in Canada: (1) police-reported data derived from the Hate Crime Supplemental Survey and the incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2.2) Survey and, (2) victimization data collected by the General Social Survey (GSS).[2] Police-reported surveys collect data on criminal incidents that come to the attention of police whereas victimization surveys collect information on respondents' personal accounts of criminal victimizations.

This report profiles information from both data sources in order to better understand the nature and extent of hate crime in Canada and to examine the characteristics of incidents, victims and persons accused of these types of offences. This report also discusses the psychological consequences of hate-motivated incidents, including the emotional impacts and victims' attitudes concerning their personal safety. Lastly, the incidence of hate crime in Canada is compared to that in the United States and Sweden.

Incidence of police-reported and victim-reported hate crime

While both police-reported data and self-reported victimization data show that the proportion of hate crime is relatively low, the volume of hate-motivated offences collected by each type of survey is very different. Typically, self-reported victimization surveys yield higher crime counts than police-reported surveys and hate-motivated crimes were no exception to this trend.

In 2006, Canadian police services, covering 87% of the population,[3] reported 892 crimes motivated by hate. Hate crimes accounted for 0.04% of all criminal incidents reported by police and represented a rate of 3.1 incidents per 100,000 population.

The 2004 GSS, on the other hand, counted over 260,000 incidents of hate-motivated crime in the 12 months preceding the survey, or 3% of all incidents.[4,5] These findings are consistent with those previously reported in the 1999 GSS.

Reasons that help explain the disparity between police-reported data and victimization data have been well-documented in previous reports (Gannon and Mihorean, 2005; Statistics Canada, 1997). Self-reported data on victimization are reflective of the perceptions of individuals and rely upon respondents to accurately interpret and report events. Interpretations of hate-motivated crime by victims are likely to be more subjective in nature, whereas police interpretations must be restricted to law and policies. Also, for a

variety of reasons, including feeling that the incident was not important enough or that police could not help, not all incidents come to the attention of police. In the 2004 GSS, for example, 40% of hate crimes were reported to police and, of these, about two-thirds resulted in a subsequent investigation. Even when an incident is reported to police and an investigation ensues, police may conclude that there is not enough evidence to support the incident being categorized as criminal or as being motivated by hate. Police-reported hate crimes may also be fewer in number if individual police agencies do not have processes in place to screen for hate-motivating elements. As such, police-reported data likely under-count hate crime in Canada and any comparisons made between these two data sources should be done so with caution.

Police report property-related offences as most common

According to 2006 police-reported data, just over half of all hate crimes (52%) were categorized as property offences (Table 1), of which nine in ten were mischief (Table 2).[6] Another 37% of incidents were violent offences committed against a person, the most frequent offence being common assault. There was one homicide and two attempted murders. Over the past 10 years, there have been ten homicides reported by police that had been motivated by hatred. The remaining 12% of hate crimes were classified as "other" violations such as offences against a person's reputation (e.g. libel, hate propaganda and inciting hatred), and threatening or harassing phone calls.

While police-reported surveys record information on all criminal incidents, the GSS is restricted to certain offences: sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, theft or damage to personal or household property, and theft or damage to motor vehicles/parts. All other incidents of hate crime, such as those involving mischief to public property (e.g. graffiti) and "other" *Criminal Code* offences (e.g. publicly inciting hatred), are not reflected in GSS data. When looking at GSS data on this sub-set of offences, violent offences (63%) were reported by victims more commonly than property-related offences (37%).

Pilot study on police-reported hate crime, 2001 and 2002

In 2001 and 2002, a pilot study on hate crime was conducted of twelve major police services from across Canada, representing 43% of the national volume of crime: Calgary, Edmonton, Halton Regional, Montréal, Regina, Sudbury, Ottawa, Toronto, Waterloo, Windsor, Winnipeg, and the RCMP outside of British Columbia (Silver, Mihorean and Taylor-Butts, 2004). Together, these municipal police services reported an average of 443 hate crimes each year, lower than the 470 reported for the same police services in 2006.[1]

The 2006 police-reported data on hate crime represent a shift from police-reported hate crime data previously collected in the 2001 and 2002 pilot study with regards to the distribution of violent and property-related offences. Similar to the 2004 GSS, the pilot study found that violent hate crimes (52%) were more common than property-related hate crimes (31%); another 17% were "other" violations, such as hate propaganda. The change in the proportions of violent and property offences between 2001 and 2002 to 2006 was driven primarily by an increase in the number of mischief offences and a decrease in the number of common assaults reported by police.

The most common motivations for hate crimes reported by police were more consistent. Results from the 2001 and 2002 pilot study showed that incidents motivated by race/ethnicity accounted for more than half (57%) of all hate crimes, followed by those targeting religion (43%) and sexual orientation (10%).[2]

1. For the purposes of comparison, the RCMP were excluded from this analysis.
2. Totals do not add up to 100% due to multiple responses.

Table 1
Police-reported hate crime by type of motivation and crime category, Canada, 2006

	Violent crime		Property crime		Other crime		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Type of motivation								
Race/ethnicity								
Black	90	37.8	122	51.3	26	10.9	238	100.0
South Asian	25	37.9	36	54.5	5	7.6	66	100.0
Arab/West Asian	30	49.2	24	39.3	7	11.5	61	100.0
East/Southeast Asian	12	48.0	9	36.0	4	16.0	25	100.0
Caucasian	11	45.8	11	45.8	2	8.3	24	100.0
Aboriginal	8	50.0	6	37.5	2	12.5	16	100.0
Multiple races/ethnicities	6	16.2	29	78.4	2	5.4	37	100.0
Other	10	34.5	14	48.3	5	17.2	29	100.0
Unknown	1	16.7	5	83.3	0	0.0	6	100.0
Total	**193**	**38.4**	**256**	**51.0**	**53**	**10.6**	**502**	**100.0**
Religion								
Jewish	32	23.4	96	70.1	9	6.6	137	100.0
Muslim (Islam)	19	41.3	19	41.3	8	17.4	46	100.0
Catholic	1	7.7	7	53.8	5	38.5	13	100.0
Other	6	30.0	11	55.0	3	15.0	20	100.0
Unknown	0	0.0	4	100.0	0	0.0	4	100.0
Total	**58**	**26.4**	**137**	**62.3**	**25**	**11.4**	**220**	**100.0**
Sexual orientation								
Homosexual (lesbian or gay)	44	56.4	28	35.9	6	7.7	78	100.0
Other	1	50.0	1	50.0	0	0.0	2	100.0
Total	**45**	**56.3**	**29**	**36.3**	**6**	**7.5**	**80**	**100.0**
Language								
French	1	25.0	2	50.0	1	25.0	4	100.0
English	1	33.3	2	66.7	0	0.0	3	100.0
Unknown	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	1	100.0
Total	**2**	**25.0**	**5**	**62.5**	**1**	**12.5**	**8**	**100.0**
Mental or physical disability								
Mental	2	50.0	1	25.0	1	25.0	4	100.0
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	100.0
Total	**2**	**40.0**	**1**	**20.0**	**2**	**40.0**	**5**	**100.0**
Gender	0	0.0	2	40.0	3	60.0	5	100.0
Other[1]	1	25.0	3	75.0	0	0.0	4	100.0
Unknown	26	38.2	27	39.7	15	22.1	68	100.0
Total	**327**	**36.7**	**460**	**51.6**	**105**	**11.8**	**892**	**100.0**

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
1. 'Other' includes motivations not otherwise stated above, such as profession or political beliefs.
Note: Includes data from municipal and provincial police services as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in British Columbia, covering 87% of the Canadian population.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2.2) Survey and Supplemental Hate Crime Survey.

Table 2
Police-reported hate crime by most serious violation, Canada, 2006

	Hate crime	
	number	percent
Type of violation		
Violent crime		
Homicide	1	0.1
Attempted murder	2	0.2
Sexual assault	1	0.1
Robbery	10	1.1
Assault - total	**208**	**23.3**
Assault level 1	129	14.5
Assault level 2 (with weapon or causing bodily harm)	69	7.7
Assault level 3 (aggravated assault)	5	0.6
Assault against peace/public officer	5	0.6
Criminal harassment	30	3.4
Utter threats to person	75	8.4
Total	**327**	**36.7**
Property crime		
Mischief	421	47.2
Break and enter	21	2.4
Theft	10	1.1
Arson	4	0.4
Fraud	4	0.4
Total	**460**	**51.6**
Other criminal violations		
Disturb the peace	6	0.7
Offences against the person and reputation[1]	49	5.5
Threatening/harassing phone calls	22	2.5
Weapon violations	3	0.3
Other[2]	25	2.8
Total	**105**	**11.8**
Total	**892**	**100.0**

1. Includes such offences as defamatory libel, extortion by libel, advocating genocide, and public incitement of hatred.
2. Includes other violations such as failure to comply, offences against public order, and other administration of justice.
Note: Includes data from municipal and provincial police services as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in British Columbia, covering 87% of the Canadian population.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2.2) Survey and Supplemental Hate Crime Survey.

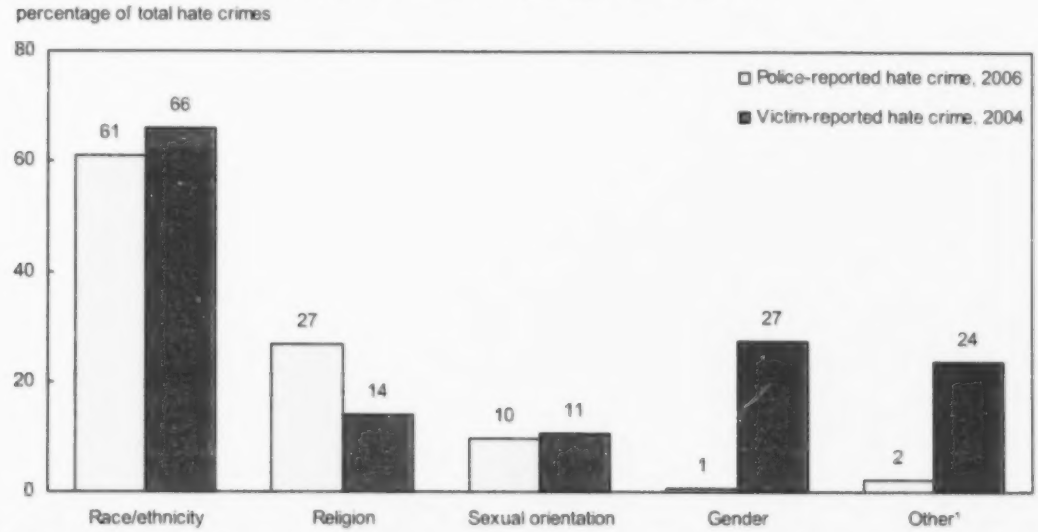
Racially-motivated incidents most common

Both police-reported data and victimization data identify motivations for hate crime incidents, although their methodologies differ. For police-reported surveys, the categories of hate crime motivations are mutually exclusive and police may only indicate one underlying motive. In contrast, the GSS allows respondents to indicate multiple motivations for a single hate crime incident.

In both surveys, race/ethnicity emerged as the most common motivation for committing a hate crime (Chart 1). In 2006, about 6 in 10 police-reported hate crimes were motivated by race/ethnicity (including colour and nationality), similar to the proportion reported in the 2001 and 2002 pilot study (57%). The 2004 GSS also found that race/ethnicity was the most common motivation (66%) for hate crime incidents.

The proportions of 2006 police-reported hate crimes and 2004 victim-reported hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation were also fairly similar (10% and 11%[E] respectively). Differences arose, however, for hate crimes motivated by religion and gender. About one-quarter of police-reported hate crimes were motivated by religious reasons compared to 14% of GSS incidents. The difference here is likely due to the limitation of the GSS in collecting mischief to public property offences, which according to police statistics, comprise the majority of religion-based hate crimes.

Chart 1
Police-reported and victim-reported hate crimes, by type of motivation



1. Includes hate crimes motivated by language, disability or other similar factor, such as profession or political beliefs.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2.2) Survey, Supplemental Hate Crime Survey and the General Social Survey.

However, the most substantial difference between the results of the two surveys pertained to the proportion of hate crimes motivated by gender. While gender-based victimizations accounted for less than 1% of police-reported hate crimes, gender was cited as the motivation behind 27% of GSS hate crime incidents.

Part of the disparity in the volume of gender-motivated hate crimes reported by victims in the GSS and police may be due to different interpretations of the definition of hate crime. Research in the United States found that prosecutors tended to under-count hate crimes motivated by gender by attributing certain incidents (e.g. violence directed at women) to motivations of power and control rather than hate (McPhail and DiNitto, 2005). It is possible that similar interpretations exist for police.

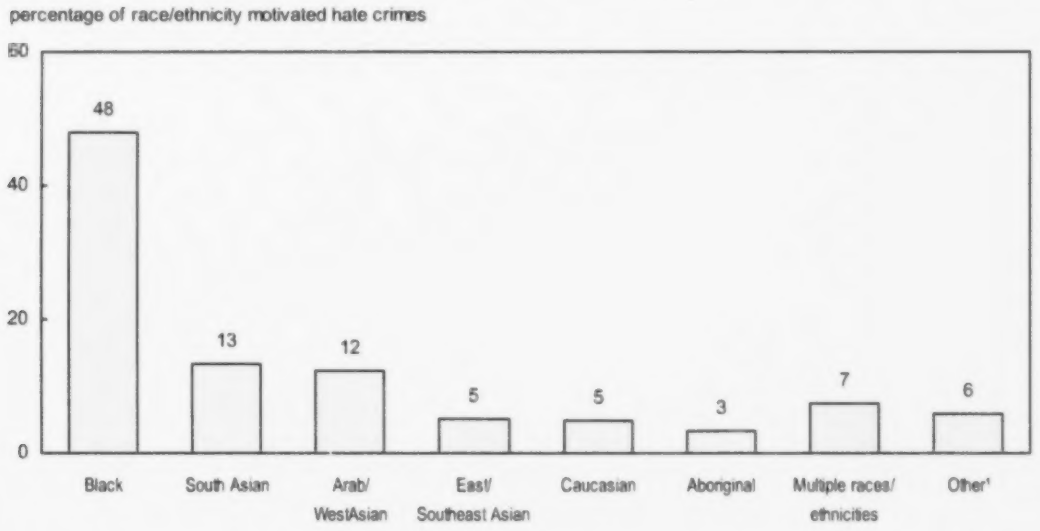
Blacks most commonly targeted racial group

Police-reported data provide further details on the type of race, religion and sexual orientation of hate-motivated incidents.[7] Among the 502 incidents motivated by race/ethnicity in 2006, half (48%) were targeted at Blacks (Chart 2). Other targeted racial groups included South Asians, such as East Indians or Pakistanis (13%); Arabs or West Asians (12%); East and Southeast Asians, such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese and Indonesians (5%); Caucasians (5%); and Aboriginal people (3%). Another 7% of racially-motivated incidents were not directed against a particular ethnic group, but at multiple races/ethnicities and 6% were categorized as involving other racial groups. Half of all racially-motivated hate crimes were property-related offences and another 38% were violent crimes. The remaining 11% of racially-motivated hate crimes were "other" *Criminal Code* offences.

Jewish faith most commonly targeted religion

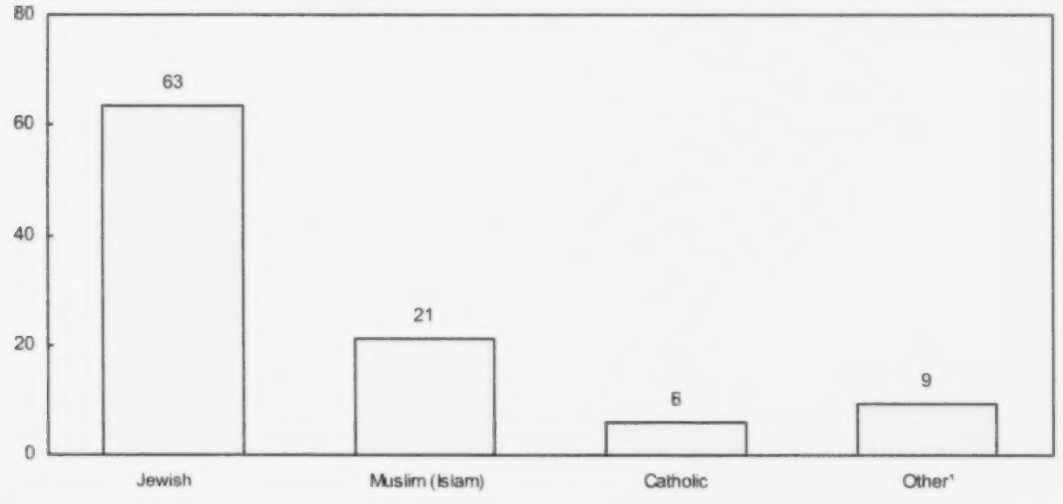
Among the 220 hate crimes reported by police to be motivated by religion, offences against the Jewish faith were the most common, accounting for almost two-thirds (63%) of religion-based incidents (Chart 3). Another 21% were against Muslims (Islam) and 6% were against Catholics. Incidents targeting other religions (e.g. Sikh, Eastern Orthodox) made up the remaining 9% of these types of incidents. Those that were religion-based were primarily property crimes (62%); 26% were violent in nature and the remaining were "other" *Criminal Code* offences (11%).

Chart 2
Police-reported hate crime by type of race/ethnicity, Canada, 2006



1. Includes all other hate crimes where the type of race/ethnicity is not otherwise stated (e.g. Latin American, South American).
Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2.2) Survey and Supplemental Hate Crime Survey.

Chart 3
Police-reported hate crime by type of religion, Canada, 2006



1. Includes all other hate crimes where the type of religion is not otherwise stated (e.g. Protestant, Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh).
Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2.2) Survey and Supplemental Hate Crime Survey.

More than half of all hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation are violent

About one in ten police-reported incidents of hate crime (or 80 incidents) were motivated by sexual orientation, usually homosexuality (98%). Unlike hate crimes motivated by race/ethnicity or religion, those driven by hatred towards a particular sexual orientation were primarily violent (56%), rather than property related (36%), with common assault being the most frequent type of violation. As a result, incidents motivated by sexual orientation were more likely than other types of hate crime incidents to result in physical injury to victims. The vast majority of incidents resulting in injury were minor in nature; about one in ten were major.

Highest rates of hate crime in Calgary and Kingston

Due to relatively low coverage in some provinces, provincial comparisons of police-reported hate crime are limited to Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia where virtually 100% of all police services and detachments participated in the hate crime study.[8]

Police-reported hate crimes in these three provinces accounted for roughly 80% of the national total. At 4.1 incidents per 100,000 population, the rate in Ontario was highest, followed by British Columbia (2.5) and Quebec (1.4).

More in-depth information is available for police-reported hate crimes at the level of census metropolitan areas (CMAs).[9] In 2006, Toronto reported the highest number of hate crimes, accounting for 30% of the national total. However, when differences in population were taken into account, the rates in Calgary (9.1), Kingston (8.5), Ottawa (6.6) and London (5.9) surpassed the rate in Toronto (5.5) (Chart 4). It is important to point out that the rates in some areas were relatively high even though the actual number of hate crimes was comparatively low. For example, while the 2006 rate of hate crime in Kingston was close to that in Calgary, the number of hate crimes identified by police was quite different: 13 incidents in Kingston and 92 in Calgary.

Among the nine largest CMAs, incidents motivated by race/ethnicity were the most common,[10] other than in Ottawa where religion-based hate crimes occurred most often (Table 3).

Table 3
Police-reported hate crime by type of motivation among the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMA), 2006

	Race/ethnicity		Religion		Sexual orientation		Other[1]		Unknown		Total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	rate[2]
CMA[3]												
Calgary	67	72.8	12	13.0	10	10.9	3	3.3	0	0.0	92	9.1
Ottawa	22	37.9	28	48.3	6	10.3	2	3.4	0	0.0	58	6.6
Toronto[4]	162	59.8	88	32.5	20	7.4	1	0.4	0	0.0	271	5.5
Edmonton	18	60.0	10	33.3	2	6.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	4.0
Hamilton[4]	12	66.7	2	11.1	4	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	3.5
Vancouver[5]	18	24.7	8	11.0	5	6.8	1	1.4	41	56.2	73	3.3
Montréal	41	48.2	27	31.8	9	10.6	7	8.2	1	1.2	85	2.3
Québec	11	64.7	2	11.8	3	17.6	0	0.0	1	5.9	17	2.3
Winnipeg	9	60.0	6	40.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	2.3
Canada	**502**	**56.3**	**220**	**24.7**	**80**	**9.0**	**22**	**2.5**	**68**	**7.6**	**892**	**3.1**

0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
1. Includes language, disability, gender and other similar factors, such as profession and political beliefs.
2. Rate per 100,000 population.
3. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (at least 100,000 population) combined with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. A CMA usually comprises more than one police service.
4. Excludes data from the Halton Regional Police Service and the Durham Regional Police Service due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.
5. The high number of unknown motivations in Vancouver is primarily the result of hate crimes reported by the RCMP under the aggregate UCR Survey.

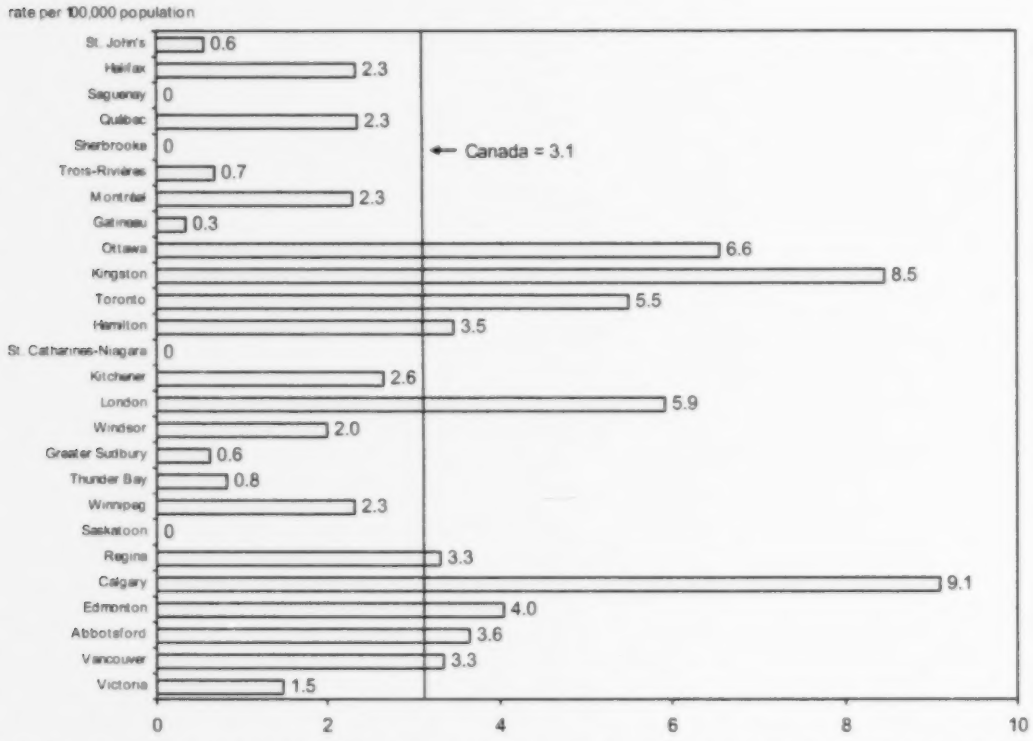
Note: Includes data from municipal and provincial police services as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in British Columbia, covering 87% of the Canadian population.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2.2) Survey and Supplemental Hate Crime Survey.

There were no hate crimes reported in Saguenay, Sherbrooke, St. Catharines-Niagara and Saskatoon. Relatively low rates were reported in St. John's, Gatineau, Greater Sudbury, Trois-Rivières, and Thunder Bay.

One factor that can affect local rates of hate crime is the internal protocols of individual police services. For instance, many police services have specialized hate crime units and training programs, hot lines, awareness campaigns and/or victim assistance programs aimed at addressing hate-motivated crimes. Still others have adopted zero-tolerance policies on hate crime and are proactive in building partnerships with community groups to encourage the public to report these types of incidents to police. Consequently, what may appear to be high rates of hate crime in certain areas may be a reflection of better reporting practices.

Chart 4
Police-reported hate crime by census metropolitan area (CMA), 2006



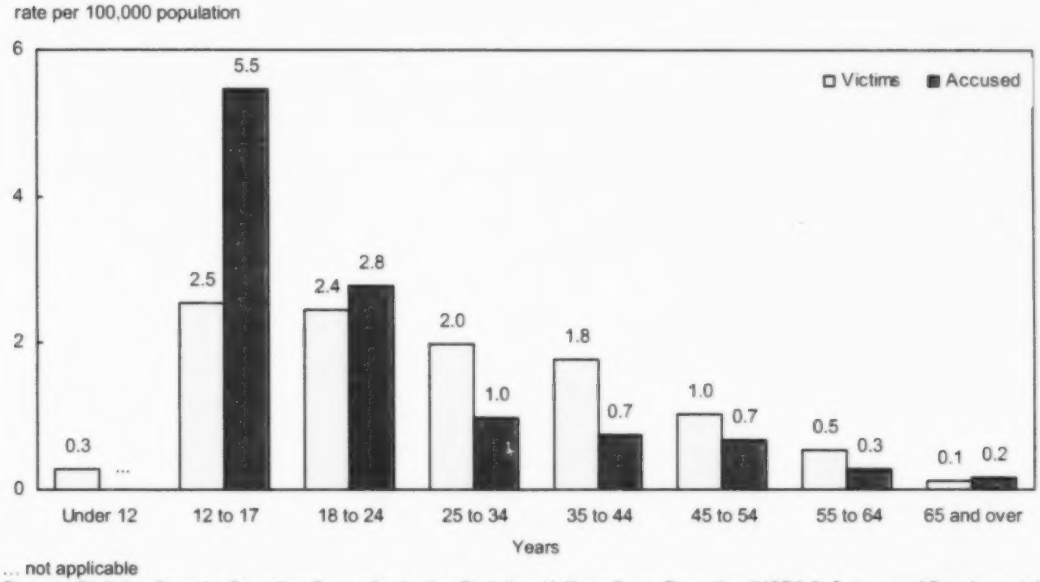
Note: Excludes the CMAs of Saint John and Oshawa as well as the proportion of crime from Halton Regional Police and Durham Regional Police that falls into the Toronto and Hamilton CMA boundaries.
Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2.2) Survey and Supplemental Hate Crime Survey.

Hate crime rates higher among youth

Data from police show that youth (12 to 17 years) were more likely than older age groups to be accused of a hate crime.[11] The rate of persons accused of a hate-motivated offence in 2006 peaked among 12 to 17 year-olds and gradually decreased with increasing age. The 120 youth accused in 2006 accounted for more than one-third (38%) of all those accused of a hate crime, double the proportion of youth accused of committing a non-hate crime (18%).

Victims of crime are identified for incidents that involve the use or threat of violence. According to the 2006 police-reported data, the highest rates of hate crime were found among 12 to 17 year-olds and 18 to 24 year-olds (Chart 5). Findings from the 2004 GSS on victimization are similar and show that young people (15 to 24 years) were more vulnerable to being victimized by a violent hate crime than adults 25 years and older (1,675[E] versus 428[E] per 100,000 for 25 years and older[12]).

Chart 5
Victims and persons accused of police-reported hate crime, by age group, Canada, 2006



... not applicable
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2.2) Survey and Supplemental Hate Crime Survey.

Both police-reported data and victimization data show that males experience higher rates of hate crime victimization than do females. In 2006, police reported that the rate against male victims (1.8 per 100,000 population) was about two and a half times higher than the rate against females (0.7 per 100,000 population). Victimization data from 2004 also showed that violent hate crimes were more often committed against males (68%). These results differ from overall violent crime which is generally committed against males and females at fairly similar rates.

Most hate crimes committed by strangers

Police-reported data indicate that hate crime incidents differ from crime in general in that they are more likely to be committed by strangers than by persons known to the victim. In 2006, police reported that three-quarters (77%) of all violent hate crime incidents had been committed by strangers, considerably higher than the proportion of strangers who commit other violent crimes (33%). Another 16% of violent hate crimes were committed by acquaintances of the victim, and 4% by business associates. Friends or family members were responsible for the remaining 3% of incidents.

Consequences of hate-motivated crime

Hate-motivated crimes are unique in that they can have effects on the victim beyond those commonly associated with non-hate crimes. The personal characteristics related to hate crime victimization (e.g. race, religion, sexual orientation) are often core elements of the victim's sense of identity and, when targeted, can create feelings of anger and vulnerability. Research on the psychological effects of criminal victimization has found that emotional consequences tend to be more severe among victims of hate crime

than victims of non-hate crime (Schaffer, 1996). Other research has suggested that the recovery period can be longer for victims of hate crime (Herek, 1999).

Findings from the 2004 GSS lend support to this previous research.[13] In more than one-third (39%) of perceived violent hate crime incidents, the victim indicated that he or she found it difficult or impossible to carry out their daily activities. This compares to 23% of violent incidents involving victims of non-hate crimes. Violent hate crime incidents were also more likely than violent non-hate crimes to result in the victim feeling fearful (35% compared with 17%).

Furthermore, victims of violent hate crime were more likely than victims of other violent crime to feel unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (37% compared to 23%). Victims of violent hate crimes were also more likely to worry while waiting for or using public transportation (66% compared to 48%).

Other research shows that hate crimes not only produce individual consequences, but they can also impact entire communities. Incidents motivated by hatred can create an atmosphere of fear among all members of a community to which an individual belongs. This, in turn, can heighten tensions between different groups, fragment communities and create further conflict (Schaffer, 1996).

Race-motivated hate crimes most common type in other countries

According to the 2007 international Hate Crime Survey conducted by Human Rights First, there are over 30 countries in Europe and North America that have adopted hate crime legislation (McClintock and LeGendre, 2007b). However, only Canada, Sweden and the United States publicly report hate crime statistics according to the categories of race, religion and sexual orientation. It is important to note that caution should be used when comparing between countries as legislative responses, implementation strategies and definitions of hate crime often differ.

As in Canada, race/ethnicity-based hate crimes were the most common type reported in the United States (65%) and Sweden (67%). The United States also reported religion-motivated hate crimes as the second-most common type. In contrast, Sweden reported sexual orientation as the second-most common type of hate crime, accounting for 21% of all hate crimes, while religion accounted for 12% (McClintock and LeGendre, 2007a).

Summary

There are two different data sources used to measure the incidence and characteristics of hate-motivated crime in Canada. The UCR Survey reflects the amount of crime that is reported to, substantiated by, and deemed by police to be motivated by hatred toward a specific group. The GSS gathers self-reported victimization data from Canadians who have been victimized by a crime and asking them if they believe the incident had been motivated by hate.

The results from each of these surveys show many commonalities, but also some major differences. Both surveys report that the majority of hate crimes are motivated by race/ethnicity and that the highest rates of victimization are against young people. The most notable difference between the police-reported data and the victimization data pertains to the volume of offences, with the number of incidents substantially higher when self-reported by victims. Both data sources; however, indicate that hate-motivated crime, as a proportion of overall crime, is relatively low.

Methodology

Data Sources

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey

The incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR 2) Survey is a micro-data survey that captures detailed information on crimes reported to and substantiated by police, including the characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. In response to changing information needs, the survey was modified in 2005 (UCR 2.2) to enable the identification of incidents motivated by hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or any other similar factor (such as profession or political beliefs). In 2006, police services reporting to the UCR 2.2 Survey covered 16% of the population of Canada.

Hate Crime Supplemental Survey

The Hate Crime Supplemental Survey was conducted as a means of obtaining information on 2006 hate-motivated crimes from those police services reporting UCR 2 data but who had not yet converted their electronic reporting systems to the newer UCR 2.2 version. These respondents were asked to identify those criminal incidents that had been motivated by hate and to manually provide the detailed characteristics of each incident to Statistics Canada. This information was then linked to the original UCR record using a unique incident identifier.

Combined, coverage from the UCR 2.2 and Hate Crime Supplemental Surveys is estimated at 87% of the population of Canada. The RCMP, outside of British Columbia, were unable to provide information on hate-motivated crimes for 2006. In addition, a number of small police services, still reporting to the old aggregate version of the UCR survey, were also unable to respond.

General Social Survey (GSS)

The General Social Survey (GSS) on victimization is a sample survey representing non-institutionalized individuals, 15 years of age or older, living in the ten provinces. The collection of crime data by the GSS is limited to eight offences: sexual assault, robbery, assault, break and enter, theft of personal or household property, motor vehicle/parts theft, and vandalism. Respondents who self-identified as having been victims of one or more of these offences in the preceding twelve months were asked whether they believed the incident could be considered a hate crime (defined as a crime motivated by the offender's hatred of a person's sex, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability or language) and, if so, to indicate the motivation.

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Endnotes

E use with caution

1. For the purposes of this report, the terms "hate-motivated crime" and "hate crime" are used interchangeably.
2. For a detailed description of the surveys used in this report, see the section "Data sources".
3. Information was collected from the vast majority of all municipal and provincial police services in Canada as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in British Columbia. The RCMP were unable to provide 2006 hate crime data outside of British Columbia due to on-going changes in their records management systems.
4. The proportion of self-reported hate-motivated victimization incidents is based upon the eight offence types that were collected by the GSS. Incidents that could not be classified as one of the eight offence types were excluded from this analysis.
5. It is not possible to calculate an overall hate crime victimization rate using the GSS. The GSS collects information on personal and household offences and the distinction between these types of offences is based on the target of the criminal event. For personal offences, it is the individual who is victimized, while for the household offences, it is the household itself. For more information, see Gannon and Mihorean, 2005.
6. Unless otherwise noted, all calculations made in this report exclude unknown responses.
7. Detailed information on the type of race/ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation of hate-motivated incidents is not available from the GSS.
8. Comparisons of rates of hate crime victimizations by province were not available from the GSS due to small sample sizes.
9. A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to a large urban core (at least 100,000 population) combined with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration.
10. Excludes the proportion of hate crimes in which motivation was reported by police as "unknown".
11. Age and gender characteristics of perpetrators of hate-motivated crimes are not available from the GSS.
12. Generally, rates of victimization from the GSS are published according to the number of incidents per 1,000 population. For the purposes of comparability with police-reported statistics, this report presents rates of victimization per 100,000 population.
13. Police-reported surveys do not collect information on the emotional consequences of hate-motivated crime.

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Visible minorities and victimization

2007

Seniors as victims of crime
Criminal victimization in the workplace

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2001

Aboriginal people in Canada
Canadians with disabilities
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Immigrants in Canada
Religious groups in Canada
Seniors in Canada
Visible minorities in Canada
Women in Canada